

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 08502 201217Z

43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03

PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 RSR-01 /116 W

----- 008417

R 171538Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 450

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8502

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRN, UR, CH

SUBJECT: SINO-SOVIET CIVIL AVIATION PROTOCOL SIGNED

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. BRIEF TASS ITEM CARRIED SOVIET PRESS JULY 17 REPORTS
SIGNATURE OF PROTOCOL TO SINO-SOVIET CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT
OF DECEMBER 30, 1954, PROVIDING FOR SIMULTANIOUS COMMENCEMENT
OF IL-62 FLIGHTS BY CARRIERS OF BOTH COUNTRIES ON MOSCOW-
PEKING ROUTE. ITEM SAYS NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SOVIET AND
CHINESE CIVIL AVIATION MINISTRIES WERE HELD IN MOSCOW, BUT
DOES NOT INDICATE DATE OR PLACE OF SIGNATURE.

2. COMMENT: POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF AGREEMENT LIES IN FACT
THAT IS APPARENTLY FIRST GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT
(APART FROM ANNUAL TRADE PROTOCOLS) TO BE SIGNED SINCE 1969 BORDER
CONFLICT. WE HAD BEEN TOLD BY MFA FIRST FAR EAST DIVISION CHIEF
KAPITSA IN APRIL THAT TALKS WERE UNDERWAY, AND PRC AMBASSADOR
CONFIRMED IN LATE JUNE THAT THEY WERE CONTINUING. JAPANESE HERE
HAVE INDICATED THAT IMPORTANT ISSUE WAS ROUTING OF CHINESE FLIGHT
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 08502 201217Z

OVER SOVIET TERRITORY, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW YET HOW THIS WAS

RESOVLED.

3. ECONOMICALLY, AGREEMENT RECTIFIES INEQUALITY OF PRESENT SERVICE, IN WHICH AEROFLOT FLIES MOSCOW TO PEKING BUT CHINESE ONLY AS FAR AS IRKUTSK. USE OF IL-62 WILL BE VAST IMPROVEMENT OVER IL-18 PROP-JET CURRENTLY IN USE BY BOTH CHINESE AND SOVIETS. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER FLIGHT WILL BENON-STOP, BUT EVEN IF IT IS NOT IT WILL REPRESENT THE FASTEST ROUTE TO PEKING FROM MOST OF EUROPE.
MELENCAMP

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